Wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan

1812. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to declare new areas in Rajasthan as wildlife sanctuaries and protected forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same is being proposed by Government for other States as well; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The power to notify wildlife sanctuaries and protected forests vests with the State Governments. Such proposals do not require approval of the Central Government.

Task force report on forest cover

1813. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Task force constituted by the Planning Commission to enhance forests cover has been processed by Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) how far its recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had constituted a Task Force in August, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to provide policy directives, legal support, equitable marketing system to agro-forestry for sustainable agriculture. Later the scope of the task force was broadened in August, 2000 to cover Greening India for enhancement of forests cover of the country. The task force has suggested a massive greening programme to achieve the national goal of bringing 33% of total geographical area under tree cover in 10 years time frame. It focuses on

watershed approach aiming at augmentation of production and productivity, meeting basic needs of forest produce, minimizing ecological degradation and sustainable management of land, water and bio-diversity and linking up of food for work programme.

(c) The major elements as referred to above have been internalized in the afforestation programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Tenth Plan.

Food for lions

1814. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sterilization of lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of resource crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for the The Lion Project to provide food for lions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The zoos have been asked to adopt population control measures for hybrid lions as these are of mixed origin and, therefore, have no conservation value. However, breeding of Asiatic Lions of pure origin is encouraged.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Government of India does not provide funds for feed of animals.

Death of leopards in Uttaranchal

1815. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six leopards died in various parts of Uttaranchal in the last one and a half years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;